

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS P.O. BOX 4970 JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32232-0019

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF

MAINTENANCE DREDGING AND BENEFICIAL USES
OF DREDGED MATERIAL
TAMPA HARBOR
HILLSBOROUGH AND PINELLAS COUNTIES, FLORIDA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) of the proposed action. This Finding incorporates by reference all discussions and conclusions contained in the Environmental Assessment enclosed hereto. Based on information analyzed in the EA reflecting pertinent information obtained from other agencies and special interest groups having jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise, I conclude that the proposed action will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Reasons for this conclusion are in summary:

- 1. The proposed work would not jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species.
- 2. The State Historic Preservation Officer concurred with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' determination that there would be no effect on historic properties associated with the maintenance dredging of Tampa Harbor and placement in the former dredge holes and pits in Tampa Bay area.
- 3. State water quality standards will be met.
- 4. The proposed project has been determined to be consistent with the Florida Coastal Zone Management Program.
- 5. Measures to eliminate, reduce, or avoid potential impacts to fish and wildlife resources will be implemented during project construction.
- 6. Benefits to the public will be creation of up to 207 acres of shallow-water estuarine habitat, upland dredged material placement area life extension, increased water quality from inadvertent sea grass creation and continued local economic stimulus.

In consideration of the information summarized, I find that the proposed action will not significantly affect the human environment and does not require an Environmental Impact Statement.

7 FEB 06____

Date

Robert M. Carpenter

Colonel, U.S. Army District Engineer

Erik L. Stor Major, U.S. Army

Deputy District Engineer